

under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 334, Jessica Lewis, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Political-Military Affairs).

Charles E. Schumer, Robert Menendez, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Maria Cantwell, Sheldon Whitehouse, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow, Catherine Cortez Masto, Christopher A. Coons, Ron Wyden, Margaret Wood Hassan, Edward J. Markey, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard J. Durbin, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Angus S. King, Jr.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, September 21, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Veronica S. Rossman to be a United States Circuit judge for the Tenth Circuit.

HONORING SSG RYAN KNAUSS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, it is my honor to pay tribute today to a fellow Tennessean who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

On August 26, 2021, at approximately 9:30 am Eastern Standard Time, an ISIS-K terrorist murdered 13 American servicemembers in a suicide attack on the Abbey Gate leading into Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Among the fallen was Corryton native SSG Ryan Knauss. Ryan served with the Army's 9th Battalion, 8th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne), which put him directly in the heart of Afghan communities. His job was to build relationships with the people he met there, and by all accounts, he succeeded with uncommon skill, empathy, and compassion. It was dangerous work, but Ryan understood its importance. As his widow Alena recently told a Knoxville newspaper, "When he spoke of the people of Afghanistan, all he saw were people that

needed help. They were below no one in his eyes, not even Americans. He told me that all he saw were people of a different culture who deserved to be OK."

When the time came for the Army to support evacuations at the airport, Ryan volunteered for the mission. He knew that, by doing this, he would be putting himself in danger; but when he looked at the chaos unfolding there, all he saw were the thousands of women and children forced into the line of fire by the persistent, terrifying evil that was seizing control of Kabul.

And so he went and faithfully executed his duty. He was born to be a soldier and died as the finest example of American heroism anyone could ask for. He was a loving husband, a loyal friend, and a light in the darkness. Ryan's unit, Detachment 10, offered a statement following his death that I believe deserves a place in the RECORD. They said, "Ryan knew the dangerous situation he was going to, but protecting innocent civilians is one of the values that drove him. It has been said that life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives, and Ryan had an incredible impact on his family and friends. And thanks to his actions, thousands of children will have the joy of knowing a childhood free from danger and oppression."

Ryan, we are in awe of you. Thank you for your service to this country and for your sacrifice on behalf of all those who seek refuge within the common cause of freedom.

(At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CUSTER COUNTY SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER

• Mr. ROUNDS. Madam President, today I rise to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Custer County Senior Citizen Center in Custer, SD. The Custer County Senior Citizen Center has continually been a place of resource, entertainment, recreation, and community for the venerable elder citizenry of the Custer Community and southern Black Hills since 1971; the 50 years of success the Custer Senior Center has enjoyed is fully supported by the hundreds of volunteers who have donated thousands of hours every year for five decades to help the senior center thrive and grow into the valuable community resource it has become.

The Custer County Senior Center provides unlimited opportunities for growth, prosperity, increased longevity, and improved quality of life to our valuable senior citizens by providing educational, cultural, financial, medical, intellectual, and fitness programs throughout the year.

The Custer County Senior Center will continue into the next 50 years providing unparalleled service to the golden age population of Custer County, the Black Hills, and the State of South Dakota as it has done since its incep-

tion, with the support of the community, the members, the volunteers, and the dedicated staff at the center.●

TRIBUTE TO PAUL M. MATULIC

Mr. BURR. Madam President, today I wish to pay tribute to Paul Matulic, a dedicated member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence staff for over 16 years. Paul's total service to the U.S. Senate spans 27 years, the first 11 of which were spent as foreign policy adviser to Senator Orrin Hatch. Since joining the staff in 2005, Paul has been resolute and unwavering in his commitment to the committee's oversight mandate. He has managed an array of critical responsibilities ranging from oversight of intelligence community covert action programs and regional monitoring of America's national security hotspots and warzones, to making key contributions in support of the committee's most sensitive and high-profile investigative work. Paul never got anything but difficult assignments because I trusted him and I knew he would do an excellent job.

Through it all, Paul maintained an erudite and exemplary professionalism that bettered both his colleagues in the performance of their oversight work and the intelligence professionals who he oversaw. Paul was exacting as an overseer, but he always balanced his demanding expectations with a heartfelt, genuine admiration for the extraordinary men and women of the intelligence community he helped oversee. Paul enjoyed relationships of trust and respect with his colleagues and members of the committee alike because he was thorough, he was prepared, and above all, Paul always gave you the truth, whether you wanted to hear it or not.

Before coming to work for the Senate in 1994, Paul served as the vice president of Hill & Knowlton, a global public relations consultancy in New York City. Prior to that, Paul spent several years as an editorial and research assistant in the office of former President Nixon. Paul earned a master's degree in international affairs and political economy from Columbia University, and a bachelor of science in international affairs from St. John Fisher College in Rochester, NY. Prior to college, Paul experienced life at its grandest and grittiest, working from one side of the North American continent to the other, all the way into the Yukon Territory, spending time as a gravedigger, a magician, a ranch hand, a construction worker, a janitor, and a bartender.

Paul's work for the committee, by its very nature, defies elaboration in this public forum. It is enough to say that Paul approached every day in the office with one ideal in mind: Democracy is underwritten by a vigorous system of checks and balances and that accountability is all the more necessary when it is applied to intelligence activities that might otherwise escape public

scrutiny. The pride and purpose Paul took from being a part of that oversight mechanism were evident in the seriousness with which he approached his work. I am personally grateful to Paul for everything he did on the committee's behalf.

Paul plans to spend his retirement with Margo, the great love of his life, at his side. He intends to travel, read, and walk the woods of the Rock Creek Park where he has found so much comfort and solace over the years. The son of European immigrants, who emigrated himself from Canada when he was 4 years old, Paul's story is a distinctly American one. Everyone who got to play a role in it these past 16 years is better for it.

It gives me great joy to publicly thank Paul for his contributions to the work of the committee, the integrity of congressional oversight, and the security of this great Nation. He has been a credit to what we do from the moment he joined the staff.

Congratulations and best of luck to you in retirement, Paul. Neither your expertise, your good humor, nor your wise counsel will soon be replaced.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF JON SIMPSON

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Bentonville Police Chief Jon Simpson whose dedication to law enforcement and community service will be deeply missed following his retirement as chief of the Bentonville Police Department.

Chief Simpson's dedication is grounded in his strong roots to northwest Arkansas as a Bentonville native and graduate of the University of Arkansas. He established a career in public safety, first in the security division of Walmart Stores, Inc., before transitioning to work for the city as a patrol officer in 1994, where his service quickly stood out. After only 2 years with the Bentonville Police Department, Jon was named officer of the year.

From there, the chief held numerous supervisory positions and led by example, inspiring officers in both the patrol and criminal divisions. He was promoted to a command staff member in 2006 and, in 2011, was appointed chief of the Bentonville Police Department. In these leadership roles, Chief Simpson reorganized the rank structure of the department, added personnel with further opportunities for advisory positions, and upgraded the department's vehicles and equipment. Additionally, he led an extensive renovation to the police department building that added a bomb squad facility, emergency communication center, criminal investigations building, and emergency operations center.

The Bentonville community's rapid growth and unique challenges certainly shaped Chief Simpson's tenure. He recognized

the high expectations of Bentonville citizens and was encouraged to do more to ensure his officers lived up to those standards. That approach led to the incredible level of safety and security within the Bentonville community today. Chief Simpson's impact has also been recognized beyond his own department. Recently, the Arkansas Fraternal Order of Police in Little Rock recognized him with its Outstanding Police Chief Award.

Chief Simpson has demonstrated a relentless pursuit to improve himself, his team, and the community he served throughout his career. I applaud his dedicated, decades-long commitment to law enforcement and the safety of his fellow Arkansans. He is a true public servant who has strengthened law and order in Bentonville. It has been an honor to work with him during his tenure, and I wish him all the best in his next endeavor. •

TRIBUTE TO BRENDAN O'NEILL

• Mr. COONS. Madam President, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant of the First State, an attorney, community leader, and friend to many, who this summer concludes a distinguished legal career of more than 45 years.

Attorney Brendan O'Neill of Wilmington, DE, wore many hats during his career: county and Federal prosecutor, a criminal defense lawyer in private practice, and chief public defender.

Delaware is known as a State of neighbors, and when it comes to Brendan O'Neill, there is no better neighbor. Brendan was, for a decade, my actual next-door neighbor, and we even studied and took the Delaware bar exam together in 1992.

Looking back on his long legal career, Brendan reminded his wife, Liz O'Neill, about all of the positions he has held over the years.

"I've had a very interesting professional life. It's been a lot of fun," Brendan said, adding as he often does, jokingly, "I've done everything but make money."

Brendan has had a truly remarkable run. Before I offer some sentiments and well wishes from family and friends, it is only appropriate to chronicle his career.

After graduating from the UC Davis School of Law in 1975, Brendan became a prosecutor in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, transitioning later to a Federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office there.

Following those early years, Brendan started a criminal defense practice, O'Neill and Young, in Santa Monica, which overlooked beautiful Palisades Park and the iconic beach on Ocean Avenue. That practice, cofounded with his college friend, Wayne Young, operated from 1979 to 1993.

It was then, Liz said, that Brendan was "deported from California" to

Delaware, where he landed a position as a lawyer in the civil division of the Delaware Department of Justice.

In 1995, Brendan launched what would become a 26-year career in the Delaware Public Defender's Office. In May 2009, Governor Jack Markell tapped Brendan to be the chief public defender, a position of trust he fulfilled for 12 years.

"Brendan O'Neill was a fierce advocate for his clients and a key proponent for the right of all accused to have a competent defense," former Governor Markell said. "His was one of the most important nominations I ever made, and I'm not the least bit surprised he is widely recognized as having been a highly effective public defender. Delaware is better for his service, and I am proud to be associated with this intelligent, joyful, passionate, and competent leader. I have no doubt he will continue to be a widely respected member of the Delaware community in retirement."

During his 12 years as Delaware's chief public defender, Brendan and his team overhauled the system for providing indigent criminal defense by creating the office of defense services, or ODS, which now includes the public defender's office and the office of conflicts counsel.

Brendan implemented the practice of vertical representation statewide in all courts. Attorneys with ODS successfully challenged the constitutionality of Delaware's death penalty statute. He acquired additional office space for ODS's Kent County and Sussex County practices and increased the focus on holistic defense to address clients' ongoing needs and issues.

On top of those accomplishments, ODS was voted as one of the best workplaces in Delaware for 10 consecutive years.

Being a public defender is not an easy job. People outside of the legal profession often asked Brendan how he could represent folks who allegedly committed terrible crimes. Liz said that she was often curious about that herself, knowing the nature of his responsibility.

Brendan generally responded, Liz said, by reminding folks that public defenders represent people who were accused of crimes and that the American legal system was founded on the presumption of innocence. Brendan often made the analogy that we don't want doctors who chastise us about how we got our medical condition. We want doctors who listen to us and help us with our problems.

The same goes for lawyers. We want them to fight for us, Brendan said, and help us get the best possible outcome. He often has held that there is no greater pressure than representing an innocent person. As a defense attorney, the facts are often not on your side, so you do the best you can to put on your case.

Brendan's career is full of people he has helped in very stressful situations,